



Australian Bureau of Statistics

2914.0.55.002 - 2006 Census of Population and Housing: Media Releases and Fact Sheets, 2006

ARCHIVED ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 27/06/2007 First Issue

MEDIA FACT SHEET

June 27, 2007

Embargoed 9.30 am (AEST)

70/2007

Census paints a picture of the average Australian family

- The 2006 Census showed that the most common family type in Australia was a couple with children. Just over 45% of all families, or 2.4 million families, fell into this group. The Australian Capital Territory and Victoria had the highest proportions of families in this group.
- Of all couple families with children, most were young families with children under 15 years (69%, or 1.6 million couple families). These families might also have included dependent students (aged 15–24 years) and non-dependent children still living with their parents.
- Couples families with children under 15 were the most common family type in every state and territory. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion, with 80% of all couple families with children falling into this group.
- The average number of children living in couple families with children under 15 was 2.16 children. Of the almost 4 million children living in Australia at the time of the 2006 Census, three-quarters (almost 3 million) were living in a couple family and almost all of these (2.7 million) were with both their natural or adoptive parents.
- Nine out of 10 couple families with young children lived in a separate house with an average of 4 bedrooms. Most of these families were paying off a mortgage – almost two-thirds across Australia. The exception was in the Northern Territory where 43% of young families were renting their home.
- The median monthly mortgage repayment for young families in a separate house was \$1400. The lowest monthly repayments for young families were in Tasmania (\$975 per month) and the highest in New South Wales (\$1665 per month). The highest level of outright home ownership by young families in separate houses was in Victoria (18%).
- The 2006 Census also showed that couple families with young children have 2 cars on average.
- Exactly 83% of couple families with young children have some type of Internet connection at home. The lowest rates of connection were in the Northern Territory (66%) and the highest in the Australian Capital Territory (90%). In all states, broadband is the most common connection type. The highest use of broadband was in the Australian Capital Territory (69% of young families).

NB: The figures in this fact sheet exclude overseas visitors. Where an answer to a question has not been provided (i.e. not stated) these occurrences form a separate category in the data and therefore some percentages do not total to 100%.

Source: ABS 2006 Census.

Table 1. 2006 Census: Family types

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
%									
Couple family with no children	36.0	35.9	39.1	40.0	38.3	40.5	32.5	36.2	37.2
Couple family with children	46.2	46.9	43.3	42.3	45.1	41.4	46.5	47.0	45.3
One parent family	16.1	15.4	15.9	16.1	14.8	16.7	19.1	15.1	15.8
Other family	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.9	1.6	1.7
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
'000									
Total families (000)	1 716.2	1 294.4	1 032.0	407.5	511.9	128.7	43.4	84.5	5 219.2

Table 2. 2006 Census: Couple families with children

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
%									
Couple family with children aged under 15 years with and without dependent students	67.9	67.0	72.0	67.7	70.6	70.4	80.1	69.0	68.9
Couple family with no children aged under 15 years	32.1	33.0	28.0	32.3	29.4	29.6	19.9	31.0	31.1
'000									
Number of couple families with children aged under 15 years	538.3	406.3	321.6	116.7	162.9	37.5	16.1	27.4	1 627.2
Total couple families with children	792.7	606.5	446.7	172.4	230.7	53.3	20.2	39.7	2 362.6

Table 3. 2006 Census: Proportion of Couple families with children aged under 15 years who live in a separate house

	NSW %	Vic. %	Qld %	SA %	WA %	Tas. %	NT %	ACT %	Aust. %
Separate house	84.5	90.6	93.8	93.8	94.4	97.0	91.1	91.5	90.0

Table 4. 2006 Census: Average number of bedrooms in separate houses containing couple families with - children aged under 15 years

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Average no. of bedrooms	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.3	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.1

Table 5. 2006 Census: Tenure type for couple families with children aged under 15 years living in a separate house

	NSW %	Vic. %	Qld %	SA %	WA %	Tas. %	NT %	ACT %	Aust. %
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Fully owned	16.6	18.0	13.9	17.2	15.0	17.4	8.1	14.6	16.2
Being purchased	63.1	66.2	60.4	65.6	63.1	63.3	43.0	66.2	63.4
Rented	17.8	13.3	23.2	14.8	19.2	16.7	43.4	17.8	17.9
Other tenure types	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.6	3.9	0.6	1.4
Not stated	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.6	0.7	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6. 2006 Census: Monthly mortgage repayments for couple families with children aged under 15 years living in a separate house

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Median monthly home loan repayment (\$)	1 665	1 300	1 347	1 100	1 300	975	1 441	1 620	1 400

Table 7. 2006 Census: Average number of cars for couple families with children aged under 15 years

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Average no. of cars	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.7	2.0	2.0

Table 8. 2006 Census: Internet arrangements of couple families with children aged under 15 years

	NSW %	Vic %	Qld %	SA %	WA %	Tas %	NT %	ACT %	Aust %
No Internet connection	14.6	15.3	15.4	17.8	15.0	21.6	31.6	9.0	15.5
Total with Internet connection	83.6	83.0	83.3	80.9	83.5	77.1	66.1	90.2	83.0
Broadband connection	58.4	58.3	56.5	44.6	57.5	43.0	39.2	68.9	56.6
Dial-up connection	24.8	24.3	26.4	35.8	25.5	33.7	26.3	21.0	26.0
Other connection	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4

This page last updated 27 June 2007

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